

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Harry E. Mitchell today spoke on the House floor, urging the President not to sue to block Arizona's new immigration law, SB 1070, and instead, work to secure the border and help fix the broken immigration system. Video of Mitchell's floor speech can be found [here](#) .

Mitchell also released the following statement regarding President Obama's mid-morning speech on illegal immigration:

"I appreciate that President Obama is shifting focus and outlining the case for fixing our broken immigration system. I, too, have been frustrated at how partisan gridlock continues to delay action on this critical issue. Illegal immigration didn't occur overnight and the situation cannot wait simply because folks choose to play politics. Illegal immigration affects our state more than it does any other -- more than half of all illegal crossings over the U.S.-Mexico border happen in Arizona. The federal government has a responsibility to secure the border and fix our broken immigration system, but hasn't done so, and Arizona continues to shoulder the burden.

I do, however, remain troubled by recent reports that the Obama Administration may file a lawsuit against Arizona to try to overturn our state's new immigration enforcement law. While the President acknowledged that Arizonans are justifiably fed up with inaction, filing, or even threatening, a lawsuit would be counterproductive to his statements of appealing to the American People's highest ideals to create a sensible and workable immigration policy. If the new state law spurs Washington to act, then it is a good thing. But make no mistake: Neither the state law nor a lawsuit to overturn it will solve the problem, secure our border or fix a broken immigration system.

Both political parties are guilty of posturing on this issue. Yet, an unsecure border and broken immigration system remain. I remain committed to pushing the President and working with both Republicans and Democrats in taking constructive action while working on a more comprehensive, permanent fix."

Mitchell has previously called on President Obama urging that his administration not sue to block Arizona's immigration law, SB 1070. [Source: [Letter to President](#) , June 21, 2010] Most recently, Mitchell asked the Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, Rep. Ike Skelton, to include within a final National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 a

provision to send thousands more National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border. [Source: Letter to Chairman Skelton, June 29, 2010]

The text of Mitchell's floor speech as prepared for delivery is below:

Mr Speaker, I am troubled by recent press reports suggesting the Justice Department has decided to sue to block Arizona's new immigration law, SB 1070.

I believe this is the wrong direction to go.

I believe the Administration's time and efforts would be much better spent securing the border and help fix our broken immigration system.

If there is one message that Washington should receive from the enactment of SB 1070, it is that Arizonans are fed up with waiting for the federal government to address this vitally important issue.

And a lawsuit won't solve the problem.

It won't secure the border, and it won't fix our broken immigration system.

Neither will boycotts, which are short-sighted and detrimental to our economic recovery.

The only thing that protracted litigation will do is once again demonstrate to Arizonans that

Washington just doesn't get it.

It will embolden those on all sides who prefer to grandstand and score political points, instead of working toward real solutions.

Arizonans are tired of the grandstanding, and tired of waiting for real help from Washington.

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